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OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			EXAMINER DICKERSON, CHAD S	
			ART UNIT 2625	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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<p align="center">Office Action Summary</p>	<p>Application No.</p> <p align="center">10/660,723</p>	<p>Applicant(s)</p> <p align="center">AKIYOSHI ET AL.</p>	
	<p>Examiner</p> <p align="center">Chad Dickerson</p>	<p>Art Unit</p> <p align="center">2625</p>	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-112 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 29-112 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 September 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</p> <p>2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</p> <p>3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>see attached</u>.</p> | <p>4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____</p> <p>5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application</p> <p>6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> |
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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Claims 1-28 in the reply filed on 7/23/2007 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the examination of the entire application would not place a serious burden on the Examiner, whereas it would be a serious burden on Applicants to prosecute and maintain separate applications. This is not found persuasive because Examiner believes that the search of different inventions in different classifications would place a serious burden on the Examiner since the Examiner only Examines inventions that are classified in class 358. Not only would the classification search be burdensome on the Examiner, but finding the scope of the claims within the different classifications would also be burdensome.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to show the information file (1201) in figure 39 described on page 46 as described in the specification.

3. Any structural detail that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention should be shown in the drawing. MPEP § 608.02(d). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if

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only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

4. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:
 - On page 56, line 14: the word "recourse" is suggested to be changed to -- resource --.
 - On page 39, line 23: the word "sown" is suggested to be changed to -- shown --.Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-28 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fukui '135 (US Pat No 5678135).

Re claim 1: Fukui '135 discloses an image forming apparatus for a multiplex copying system, the image forming apparatus comprising:

an application information obtaining part for obtaining application information that is used for determining whether an application is installable in the image forming apparatus (i.e. in the procedure shown in figure 18, the copier body (301) checks to see if a version of the additional function, considered as the application, on the copier can be performed on efficiently on the copier. If it cannot be performed on the copier efficiently, the additional function is considered to be not installable and sends a request to the managing unit (2203) to send a program to the copier so that the additional function can be installed and utilized in an efficient manner on the copier; see figs. 17 and 18; col. 14, lines 28-67 and col. 15, lines 1-52).

Re claim 2: The teachings of Fukui '135 are disclosed above.

Fukui '135 discloses the image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the application information obtaining part obtains the application information from the

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application (i.e. the copier body performs the function of obtaining additional function information from the additional function as soon as the copier is powered on and realizes it has an additional function attached to the copier. The additional function is considered as the application and the version data about the additional function is considered to be application information; see figs. 17 and 18; col. 14, lines 28-67 and col. 15, lines 1-52).

Re claim 3: The teachings of Fukui '135 are disclosed above.

Fukui '135 discloses the image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the application information is information that is included in an execution file of the application (i.e. an execution file is considered to be a program since the file is meant to be interpreted as a program by the CPU of the copier. In the system, when the managing unit searches for a program and uses an ID code, the ID code associated with the program is found in order to find the appropriate program to utilize. This ID code can be within the program that will be used with the additional function. Also, when the copier is first powered on, the additional function's program version data is compared to the version data of the copier. In this scenario, the version data, considered as the application information, is within the respective program of the additional function; see figs. 17 and 18; col. 14, lines 28-67, col. 15, lines 1-52, col. 17, lines 1-67 and col. 18, lines 1-65).

Re claim 4: The teachings of Fukui '135 are disclosed above.

Fukui '135 discloses the image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the application information obtaining part obtains the application information from a file separate from the application (i.e. an execution file is considered to be a program since the file is meant to be interpreted as a program by the CPU of the copier. When the managing unit (2203) searches for an updating program to send to the copier, the managing unit uses the ID code of the additional function and copier to find the appropriate program. Since the ID code is associated with the program used for the additional function, then the ID code, or version data, is included in the program of the additional function. In this example, the execution file that is not on the copier pertaining to the additional function but in the memory device (2402) then this is considered as additional function information from a program, or execution file, separate from the additional function on the copier. The version data on the copier of the additional function will be different from the one being searched for since the system is looking for an updated program; see figs. 17 and 18; col. 14, lines 28-67, col. 15, lines 1-52, col. 17, lines 1-67 and col. 18, lines 1-65).

Re claim 5: The teachings of Fukui '135 are disclosed above.

Fukui '135 discloses the image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the application information obtaining part obtains the application information by provisionally launching the application (i.e. provisionally launching the additional function is merely obtaining information about the additional function from the additional function to the CPU of the copier. In Fukui '135, the copier (301) obtains additional function

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information from the program of the additional function. Information regarding the version and control data is given to the copier body (301); see figs. 17 and 18; col. 14, lines 28-67, col. 15, lines 1-52, col. 17, lines 1-67 and col. 18, lines 1-65).

Re claim 6: The teachings of Fukui '135 are disclosed above

Fukui '135 discloses the image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein the application information obtaining part obtains the application information by using interprocess communication between the application information obtaining part and the application (i.e. the copier body has the additional function attachment to the copier body. The communication between the additional function and the copier body is representative of interprocess communication between an application information obtaining part and an application, or the copier body and the additional function; see figs. 17 and 18; col. 14, lines 28-67, col. 15, lines 1-52, col. 17, lines 1-67 and col. 18, lines 1-65).

Re claim 7: The teachings of Fukui '135 are disclosed above

Fukui '135 discloses the image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein the application causes the image forming apparatus to perform:

a step of determining whether to provisionally launch the application or to normally launch the application according to a request from the application information obtaining part (i.e. when the additional function is attached to the copier body, the information pertaining to the version information and control is sent to the copier body

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(301). The system determines to send this information once the connection of the additional function is detected. Once the determination of the efficiency of the version data and the control program is determined, then the decision to normally perform the function of the additional function can be performed. Again, once the copier body utilizes the proper version and program information for the additional function, the determination or performance of a normal launch of the additional function can be performed. Provisionally launching the additional function is merely obtaining information about the additional function from the additional function to the CPU of the copier. In Fukui '135, the copier (301) obtains additional function information from the program of the additional function. Information regarding the version and control data is given to the copier body (301); see figs. 17 and 18; col. 14, lines 28-67, col. 15, lines 1-52, col. 17, lines 1-67 and col. 18, lines 1-65); and

a step of providing the application information to the application information obtaining part if the application is provisionally launched (i.e. provisionally launching the additional function is merely obtaining information about the additional function from the additional function to the CPU of the copier. In Fukui '135, the copier (301) obtains additional function information from the program of the additional function. Information regarding the version and control data is given to the copier body (301); see figs. 17 and 18; col. 14, lines 28-67, col. 15, lines 1-52, col. 17, lines 1-67 and col. 18, lines 1-65).

Re claim 8: The teachings of Fukui '135 are disclosed above.

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Fukui '135 discloses the image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, the image forming apparatus further comprising a storage for storing the application information obtained by the application information obtaining part (i.e. the copier body contains nonvolatile RAM (629) that is utilized in order to write updating programs onto the memory; see figs. 17 and 18; col. 14, lines 28-67, col. 15, lines 1-52, col. 17, lines 1-67 and col. 18, lines 1-65).

Re claim 9: The teachings of Fukui '135 are disclosed above

Fukui '135 discloses the image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein the storage is at least one of a hard disk, a nonvolatile memory and a memory card, and wherein the application information obtaining part obtains the application information by reading information stored in the storage (i.e. once the updating programs are written to the memory, the copier body can utilize the memory to obtain the additional function information about the additional function from the information written in the nonvolatile RAM (629); see figs. 17 and 18; col. 14, lines 28-67, col. 15, lines 1-52, col. 17, lines 1-67 and col. 18, lines 1-65).

Re claim 10: The teachings of Fukui '135 are disclosed above.

Fukui '135 discloses the image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the application information includes a product ID that is specific for the application (i.e. in Fukui '135, the identification code used can be considered as a product ID since the identification code is specific for the particular additional function and it identifies the

additional function; see figs. 17 and 18; col. 14, lines 28-67, col. 15, lines 1-52, col. 17, lines 1-67 and col. 18, lines 1-65).

Re claim 11: The teachings of Fukui '135 are disclosed above.

Fukui '135 discloses the image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the application information further includes at least one of a vendor name, an application name, version information and resource information (i.e. Fukui '135 discloses the additional function information as version data; see figs. 17 and 18; col. 14, lines 28-67, col. 15, lines 1-52, col. 17, lines 1-67 and col. 18, lines 1-65).

Re claim 12: The teachings of Fukui '135 are disclosed above.

Fukui '135 discloses the image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the storage stores product IDs of installable applications (i.e. the ID codes of particular additional functions are stored in the image forming apparatus and the managing unit. These two units store the ID codes of the addition function programs that are installable; see figs. 17 and 18; col. 14, lines 28-67, col. 15, lines 1-52, col. 17, lines 1-67 and col. 18, lines 1-65), and

the image forming apparatus determines whether a target application is installable by checking whether a product ID of the target application is stored (i.e. once a additional function sends the type data and the version data, which can be the ID code, the copier checks the ROM (612) for the incoming data from the additional function attached to the copier body. The apparatus checks the ROM and RAM to see

if the version data and other program information matches the contents stored in the RAM and ROM. This determines whether to install the information in order to use the additional function or to use the contents that match the information stored in the RAM and ROM to control the additional function; see figs. 17 and 18; col. 14, lines 28-67, col. 15, lines 1-52, col. 17, lines 1-67 and col. 18, lines 1-65).

Re claim 13: The teachings of Fukui '135 are disclosed above.

Fukui '135 discloses the image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, the image forming apparatus further comprising:

hardware resources used for image forming process (i.e. the copier body (301) has a plurality of hardware resources, such as a sorter, facsimile and other resources, that are used for the image forming apparatus; see figs. 17 and 18; col. 14, lines 28-67, col. 15, lines 1-52, col. 17, lines 1-67 and col. 18, lines 1-65);

control services for controlling the hardware resources (i.e. in the system, the programs associated with the additional functions and the copier are used to control the functions of the overall image forming apparatus with the additional functions attached to the copier body; see figs. 17 and 18; col. 14, lines 28-67, col. 15, lines 1-52, col. 17, lines 1-67 and col. 18, lines 1-65); and

a virtual application service that operates as a client process for the control services and operates as a sever process for the application (i.e. the copier body operates as the client process for controlling the device and additional functions through the control programs received from the additional peripherals, external memory or an

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external device. The copier body also acts as a server application communicating with the other external devices for stored programs to be utilized by the copier body; see figs. 17 and 18; col. 14, lines 28-67, col. 15, lines 1-52, col. 17, lines 1-67 and col. 18, lines 1-65).

Re claim 14: The teachings of Fukui '135 are disclosed above.

Fukui '135 discloses the image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the virtual application service includes the application information obtaining part (i.e. the copier body (301) is utilized to obtain additional function information from either a peripheral device or an external device connected to the copier body; see figs. 17 and 18; col. 14, lines 28-67, col. 15, lines 1-52, col. 17, lines 1-67 and col. 18, lines 1-65).

Re claim 15: Fukui '135 discloses an image forming apparatus for a multiplex copying system, the method comprising:

an application information obtaining step of obtaining application information that is used for determining whether an application is installable in the image forming apparatus (i.e. in the procedure shown in figure 18, the copier body (301) checks to see if a version of the additional function, considered as the application, on the copier can be performed on efficiently on the copier. If it cannot be performed on the copier efficiently, the additional function is considered to be not installable and sends a request to the managing unit (2203) to send a program to the copier so that the additional

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function can be installed and utilized in an efficient manner on the copier; see figs. 17 and 18; col. 14, lines 28-67 and col. 15, lines 1-52).

Re claim 16: The teachings of Fukui '135 are disclosed above.

Fukui '135 discloses the method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the image forming apparatus obtains the application information from the application (i.e. the copier body performs the function of obtaining additional function information from the additional function as soon as the copier is powered on and realizes it has an additional function attached to the copier. The additional function is considered as the application and the version data about the additional function is considered to be application information; see figs. 17 and 18; col. 14, lines 28-67 and col. 15, lines 1-52).

Re claim 17: The teachings of Fukui '135 are disclosed above.

Fukui '135 discloses the method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the application information is information that is included in an execution file of the application (i.e. an execution file is considered to be a program since the file is meant to be interpreted as a program by the CPU of the copier. In the system, when the managing unit searches for a program and uses an ID code, the ID code associated with the program is found in order to find the appropriate program to utilize. This ID code can be within the program that will be used with the additional function. Also, when the copier is first powered on, the additional function's program version data is compared to the version data of the copier. In this scenario, the version data, considered as the application information, is

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within the respective program of the additional function; see figs. 17 and 18; col. 14, lines 28-67, col. 15, lines 1-52, col. 17, lines 1-67 and col. 18, lines 1-65).

Re claim 18: The teachings of Fukui '135 are disclosed above.

Fukui '135 discloses the method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the image forming apparatus obtains the application information from a file separate from the application (i.e. an execution file is considered to be a program since the file is meant to be interpreted as a program by the CPU of the copier. When the managing unit (2203) searches for an updating program to send to the copier, the managing unit uses the ID code of the additional function and copier to find the appropriate program. Since the ID code is associated with the program used for the additional function, then the ID code, or version data, is included in the program of the additional function. In this example, the execution file that is not on the copier pertaining to the additional function but in the memory device (2402) then this is considered as additional function information from a program, or execution file, separate from the additional function on the copier. The version data on the copier of the additional function will be different from the one being searched for since the system is looking for an updated program; see figs. 17 and 18; col. 14, lines 28-67, col. 15, lines 1-52, col. 17, lines 1-67 and col. 18, lines 1-65).

Re claim 19: The teachings of Fukui '135 are disclosed above.

Fukui '135 discloses the method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the image forming apparatus obtains the application information by provisionally launching the application

(i.e. provisionally launching the additional function is merely obtaining information about the additional function from the additional function to the CPU of the copier. In Fukui '135, the copier (301) obtains additional function information from the program of the additional function. Information regarding the version and control data is given to the copier body (301); see figs. 17 and 18; col. 14, lines 28-67, col. 15, lines 1-52, col. 17, lines 1-67 and col. 18, lines 1-65).

Re claim 20: The teachings of Fukui '135 are disclosed above.

Fukui '135 discloses the method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the image forming apparatus obtains the application information from the application by using interprocess communication (i.e. the copier body has the additional function attachment to the copier body. The communication between the additional function and the copier body is representative of interprocess communication between an application information obtaining part and an application, or the copier body and the additional function; see figs. 17 and 18; col. 14, lines 28-67, col. 15, lines 1-52, col. 17, lines 1-67 and col. 18, lines 1-65).

Re claim 21: The teachings of Fukui '135 are disclosed above.

Fukui '135 discloses the method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the application causes the image forming apparatus to perform:

a step of determining whether to provisionally launch the application or to normally launch the application according to a request (i.e. when the additional function

is attached to the copier body, the information pertaining to the version information and control is sent to the copier body (301). The system determines to send this information once the connection of the additional function is detected. Once the determination of the efficiency of the version data and the control program is determined, then the decision to normally perform the function of the additional function can be performed. Again, once the copier body utilizes the proper version and program information for the additional function, the determination or performance of a normal launch of the additional function can be performed. Provisionally launching the additional function is merely obtaining information about the additional function from the additional function to the CPU of the copier. In Fukui '135, the copier (301) obtains additional function information from the program of the additional function. Information regarding the version and control data is given to the copier body (301); see figs. 17 and 18; col. 14, lines 28-67, col. 15, lines 1-52, col. 17, lines 1-67 and col. 18, lines 1-65); and

a step of providing the application information to the image forming apparatus if the application is provisionally launched (i.e. provisionally launching the additional function is merely obtaining information about the additional function from the additional function to the CPU of the copier. In Fukui '135, the copier (301) obtains additional function information from the program of the additional function. Information regarding the version and control data is given to the copier body (301); see figs. 17 and 18; col. 14, lines 28-67, col. 15, lines 1-52, col. 17, lines 1-67 and col. 18, lines 1-65).

Re claim 22: The teachings of Fukui '135 are disclosed above.

Fukui '135 discloses the method as claimed in claim 15, the method further comprising a step of storing the application information in a storage in the image forming apparatus (i.e. the copier body contains nonvolatile RAM (629) that is utilized in order to write updating programs onto the memory; see figs. 17 and 18; col. 14, lines 28-67, col. 15, lines 1-52, col. 17, lines 1-67 and col. 18, lines 1-65).

Re claim 23: The teachings of Fukui '135 are disclosed above.

Fukui '135 discloses the method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the storage is at least one of a hard disk, a nonvolatile memory and a memory card, and wherein the image forming apparatus obtains the application information by reading information stored in the storage (i.e. once the updating programs are written to the memory, the copier body can utilize the memory to obtain the additional function information about the additional function from the information written in the nonvolatile RAM (629); see figs. 17 and 18; col. 14, lines 28-67, col. 15, lines 1-52, col. 17, lines 1-67 and col. 18, lines 1-65).

Re claim 24: The teachings of Fukui '135 are disclosed above.

Fukui '135 discloses the method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the application information includes a product ID that is specific for the application (i.e. in Fukui '135, the identification code used can be considered as a product ID since the identification code is specific for the particular additional function and it identifies the additional .

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function; see figs. 17 and 18; col. 14, lines 28-67, col. 15, lines 1-52, col. 17, lines 1-67 and col. 18, lines 1-65).

Re claim 25: The teachings of Fukui '135 are disclosed above.

Fukui '135 discloses the method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the application information further includes at least one of a vendor name, an application name, version information and resource information (i.e. Fukui '135 discloses the additional function information as version data; see figs. 17 and 18; col. 14, lines 28-67, col. 15, lines 1-52, col. 17, lines 1-67 and col. 18, lines 1-65).

Re claim 26: The teachings of Fukui '135 are disclosed above.

Fukui '135 discloses the method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the storage stores product IDs of installable applications (i.e. the ID codes of particular additional functions are stored in the image forming apparatus and the managing unit. These two units store the ID codes of the addition function programs that are installable; see figs. 17 and 18; col. 14, lines 28-67, col. 15, lines 1-52, col. 17, lines 1-67 and col. 18, lines 1-65), and

the image forming apparatus determines whether a target application is installable by checking whether a product ID of the target application is stored (i.e. once a additional function sends the type data and the version data, which can be the ID code, the copier checks the ROM (612) for the incoming data from the additional function attached to the copier body. The apparatus checks the ROM and RAM to see

if the version data and other program information matches the contents stored in the RAM and ROM. This determines whether to install the information in order to use the additional function or to use the contents that match the information stored in the RAM and ROM to control the additional function; see figs. 17 and 18; col. 14, lines 28-67, col. 15, lines 1-52, col. 17, lines 1-67 and col. 18, lines 1-65).

Re claim 27: Fukui '135 discloses an image forming apparatus for a multiplex copying system, the computer program comprising:

application information obtaining program code means for obtaining application information that is used for determining whether an application is installable in the image forming apparatus (i.e. in the procedure shown in figure 18, the copier body (301) checks to see if a version of the additional function, considered as the application, on the copier can be performed on efficiently on the copier. If it cannot be performed on the copier efficiently, the additional function is considered to be not installable and sends a request to the managing unit (2203) to send a program to the copier so that the additional function can be installed and utilized in an efficient manner on the copier; see figs. 17 and 18; col. 14, lines 28-67 and col. 15, lines 1-52).

Re claim 28: Fukui '135 discloses an image forming apparatus for a multiplex copying system, the computer readable medium comprising:

application information obtaining program code means for obtaining application information that is used for determining whether an application is installable in the

image forming apparatus (i.e. in the procedure shown in figure 18, the copier body (301) checks to see if a version of the additional function, considered as the application, on the copier can be performed on efficiently on the copier. If it cannot be performed on the copier efficiently, the additional function is considered to be not installable and sends a request to the managing unit (2203) to send a program to the copier so that the additional function can be installed and utilized in an efficient manner on the copier; see figs. 17 and 18; col. 14, lines 28-67 and col. 15, lines 1-52).

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
8. Nomura '630 (US Pub No 2002/0002630) discloses a system where a server is given the operational environment of an image forming apparatus and judges what whether certain programs are installable on the image forming apparatus. Also, the image forming apparatus also judges whether a program is installable on itself.

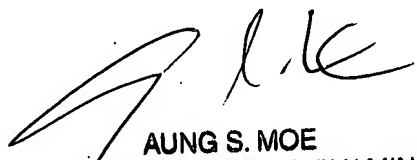
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chad Dickerson whose telephone number is (571)-270-1351. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. thru Thur. 9:00-6:30 Fri. 9:00-5:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Aung Moe can be reached on (571)- 272-7314. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CD/ 
Chad Dickerson
September 13, 2007


AUNG S. MOE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
9/13/07